

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 16, 2002      LB 19, 642, 647, 722, 921, 952, 952A, 957  
989, 989A, 1033A, 1086  
LR 465

amendment to LB 957 to be printed; Senator Wickersham, LB 1033A. LR 465 by the Education Committee. It calls for an interim study. That will be referred to the board. Enrollment and Review reports they've examined LB 952 and recommend that same be placed on Select File; LB 952A, Select File. Enrollment and Review also reports LB 642, LB 647, LB 722, LB 921, LB 989, LB 989A, LB 1086 as correctly engrossed. That's all that I have, Madam President. (Legislative Journal pages 1714-1718.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: LB...Mr. Clerk, LB 19.

CLERK: Madam President, the next bill, LB 19, a bill introduced by Senator Chambers. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 4 of last year, at that time was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill was advanced to General File.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Chambers, would you like to open on your bill?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the Legislature, this bill prohibits discrimination against people based on sexual orientation. It would apply to employers with fewer than 15 employees, the state of Nebraska political subdivisions, and one of those lending outfits with the state. UNL, UNO have adopted policies of the kind envisioned in this bill. The Code of Professional Responsibility, which is the ethical code that governs lawyers, has a provision prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, as does the code...the Judicial Code of Conduct. What this bill would do is to acknowledge that all people in this state who are able to work should be allowed to have a job. Under the current state of the law, a person can be refused employment, can be terminated, can be denied any of the benefits that go with employment, not because of sexual orientation but because of a suspicion as to sexual orientation. I'm going to put some things from my statement of intent into the record so that it will be clear. In line with the policy of this state to foster employment of all employable persons in the state on the basis of merit, regardless of various extraneous factors, you will find at page 21, lines 13 through 15, that language to comply with that or effectuate it, LB 19 prohibits this discrimination